



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

C455

Performance and Audit Scrutiny Committee 16 April 2012

External Audit Fees for 2012/13

SUMMARY

Following consultation, the Audit Commission has approved the work programme and scales of audit fees for the audit of the accounts of 'larger local government bodies' for 2012/13. St Edmundsbury is included in this category.

The Commission has outsourced the work of its in-house audit practice and on 6 March 2012 officially confirmed that it has awarded five-year audit contracts to four private firms. The East of England contract has been awarded to Ernst & Young.

Through its bulk purchasing power, the Audit Commission has been able to secure significant reductions in the cost of audit services. Together with further savings achieved through the Commission's own internal efficiencies, the Commission will now pass on reductions of up to 40 per cent in audit fees for local government bodies. As a result, councils and other local government bodies are expected to save over £32 million a year, amounting to £161 million over the length of the contracts.

For St Edmundsbury, the planned audit fee will reduce from £95,760 in 11/12 to £57,456 in 12/13. As always, actual fees paid may differ, depending on the issues raised throughout the course of the audit.

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To note the proposed saving of £38,304 to St Edmundsbury Borough Council for its 12/13 audit fees.

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